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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/631,279

07/31/2003

Keith A. Raniere

FIRS-2992

3766

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SCHMEISER, OLSEN & WATTS
22 CENTURY HILL DRIVE
SUITE 302
LATHAM, NY 12110

EXAMINER

UTAMA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3715

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/20/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/631,279	Applicant(s) RANIERE, KEITH A.	
	Examiner ROBERT J. UTAMA	Art Unit 3715	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-16, 21-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-8 and 17-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Status of the application

1. This office action is a response to the amendment and argument filed on 12/01/2008. The current status of the application is as follows: claims 1, 4-8, 17-20 are still pending, claims 2-3 have been cancelled and claims 9-16, 21-33 have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1, 4-8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. In order to be considered patent eligible under 35 USC 101, a claimed process must contain a sufficient tie to a machine, article of manufacture or a composition of matter. *In re Comiskey*, 84 USPQ2d 1670 (Fed. Cir. 2007). In this case, the claimed invention does not have a sufficient tie to any machine, article of manufacture or a composition of matter. In this particular case, claim 1 fails to include any recitation of a machine, article of manufacture or a composition of matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claim 1, 4-8 and 17-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hall-Tipping US 5,001,632 and further in view of Stratton et al.**

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Claim 1: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching of a method of comprising of: determining a point of efficiency of a trainable subject with at least one parameter (see Hall-Tipping col. 6:1:-9, col. 5:35-45 “optimal level of activity”); determining a range of tolerance surrounding the point of efficiency (see Hall-Tipping col. 5:35-45 Upper and lower heart rate and FIG. 2 Maximum and Minimum aerobic heart rate); training said trainable subject within said range of tolerance of said point of efficiency with respect to a state of accommodation (see col. 6:9-23). The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching where the efficiency is determined by a linear proportional rate of change in the at least one parameter (see FIG 3 and col. 5:40-60). The Hall-Tipping reference does not provide teaching of training said subject until exhaustion occurs. However, the Stratton et al reference provides a teaching of training said subject until exhaustion occurs (see Stratton et al page 1649 item “Study Protocol). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to include the feature of of training said subject until exhaustion occurs, as taught by Stratton et al, would increase the user's peak cardiac output (see Stratton et al page 1653).

Claim 4 and 18: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching of is one of a physical parameter (see col. 4:30-37 “heart rate”).

Claim 5 and 19: The Hall Tipping reference does not provide a teaching of at least one physical parameter of blood pressure. However, the Stratton teaches that one of the physical parameter selected is the subject blood pressure (see Stratton page 1649 under the heading “Data Collection and Processing). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to include the feature of least one physical parameter of blood pressure, as taught by Stratton et al, because it would enable the system to better analyze the user's physical activity level.

Claim 6 and 20: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching of is one of a physical parameter of a heart rate (see col. 4:30-37 “heart rate”).

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Claim 7: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching where the parameter observed by the a signal of physical motion (see col. 3:65-4:5 “speed sensor monitoring the speed of movement”).

Claim 8: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching of having a trainable subject selected from a human (see col. 3:5-25).

Claim 17: The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching of providing a performance system (see Abstract “exercise bicycle”), activating the performance system (see Abstract); recording at least one parameter of the performance system (see col. 4:25-35 “Speed of villain” and col. 2:40-55 and col. 3:5-25 “difficulty level”), determining at least one point of efficiency parameter with respect of a state of accommodation by changing at least one parameter of the performance system until at least one parameter of the subject substantially changes beyond a given tolerance function (see Hall-Tipping col. 6:1:-9, col. 5:35-45 “optimal level of activity”); determining a range of tolerance surrounding the point of efficiency (see Hall-Tipping col. 5:35-45 Upper and lower heart rate and FIG. 2 Maximum and Minimum aerobic heart rate); training said trainable subject within said range of tolerance of said point of efficiency with respect to a state of accommodation (see col. 6:9-23). The Hall-Tipping reference provides a teaching where the efficiency is determined by a linear proportional rate of change in the at least one parameter (see FIG 3 and col. 5:40-60). The Hall-Tipping reference does not provide teaching of training said subject until exhaustion occurs. However, the Stratton et al reference provides a teaching of training said subject until exhaustion occurs (see Stratton et al page 1649 item “Study Protocol). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to include the feature of of training said subject until exhaustion occurs, as taught by Stratton et al, would increase the user's peak cardiac output (see Stratton et al page 1653).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 12/01/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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7. The applicant argues that the combination of Hall-Tipping and Stratton is not valid since it teaches of using a pre-calculated range for determining efficiency. The applicant argues that claim limitation is distinguishable from the prior art since the claim limitation do not use a pre-calculated range for determining efficiency. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 set forth the limitation of “determining for a given activity a point of efficiency of a trainable subject ...” The examiner would like to point out that the claim language do not exclude a point of efficiency that is predetermined. The examiner takes the interpretation as long as the a point of efficiency can be shown and have a linear rate of change then such prior art would meet the limitation of claim 1. The applicant also argues that the Hall-Tipping reference do not provide a teaching of determining a point of efficiency of a subject. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Since the Hall-Tipping reference tailors the exercise routine with respect to the user’s parameter using both the user's input and the user's measured parameter (see col. 6:40-55).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. UTAMA whose telephone number is (571)272-1676. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571)272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. J. U./
Examiner, Art Unit 3715

/XUAN M. THAI/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3715